

Trans-Pacific Partnership Corporate World Government

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The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) is a proposed regional regulatory and investment treaty. As of 2014, twelve countries throughout the Asia Pacific region have participated in negotiations on the TPP: [Australia](#), [Brunei](#), [Canada](#), [Chile](#), [Japan](#), [Malaysia](#), [Mexico](#), [New Zealand](#), [Peru](#), [Singapore](#), the [United States](#), and [Vietnam](#).

The proposed agreement began in 2005 as the Trans-Pacific Strategic Economic Partnership Agreement (TPSEP or P4). Participating countries set the goal of wrapping up negotiations in 2012, but contentious issues such as agriculture, intellectual property, and services and investments have caused negotiations to continue into the present,^[7] with the last round meeting in [Ottawa](#) from 3–12 July 2014.^{[8][9]} Implementation of the TPP is one of the primary goals of the trade agenda of the [Obama administration](#) in the United States of America.

On 12 November 2011, the nine Trans-Pacific Partnership countries announced that the TPP intended to "enhance trade and investment among the TPP partner countries, to promote innovation, economic growth and development, and to support the creation and retention of jobs."^[10] Although the text of the treaty has not been made public, [Wikileaks](#) has published several documents since 2013. A number of [global health](#) professionals, [internet freedom](#) activists, environmentalists, organised labour, advocacy groups, and elected officials have criticised and protested against the treaty, in large part because of the secrecy of negotiations, the agreement's expansive scope, and controversial clauses in drafts leaked to the public.^{[11][12][13][14][15]}

Country/Region ⇅	Status ⇅	Date ⇅
 Brunei	Original Signatory	June 2005
 Chile	Original Signatory	June 2005
 New Zealand	Original Signatory	June 2005
 Singapore	Original Signatory	June 2005
 United States	Negotiating	February 2008
 Australia	Negotiating	November 2008
 Peru	Negotiating	November 2008
 Vietnam	Negotiating	November 2008
 Malaysia	Negotiating	October 2010
 Mexico	Negotiating	October 2012
 Canada ^[16]	Negotiating	October 2012
 Japan	Negotiating	March 2013
 Taiwan	Announced Interest	September 2013
 South Korea	Announced Interest	November 2013

Membership

There are twelve countries which are participating in negotiations for the Trans-Pacific partnership. Four of these have already ratified the *Trans-Pacific Strategic Economic Partnership Agreement* in 2006, while eight more have joined negotiations for the Trans-Pacific Partnership, whose text has not yet been finalized.



Potential members

South Korea is not part of the initial agreement, but it has shown interest in entering the TPP,^[17] and was invited to the TPP negotiating rounds by the US after the successful conclusion of its [Free trade agreement between the United States of America and the Republic of Korea](#) in December 2010.^[18] South Korea already has bilateral trade agreements with some TPP members, but areas such as vehicle manufacturing and agriculture still need to be agreed upon, making further multilateral TPP negotiations somewhat complicated.^[19] South Korea may join the TPP as part of a second wave of expansion for the trade agreement.^[20]

Other countries interested in TPP membership include [Taiwan](#),^[21] the [Philippines](#),^[22] [Laos](#),^[23] [Colombia](#),^[24] [Thailand](#),^[25] and [Indonesia](#).^[26] According to law professor Edmund Sim, many of these potential countries would have to change their [protectionist](#) trade policies in order to join the TPP.^[27] Other potential future members include [Cambodia](#),^[28] [Bangladesh](#)^[29] and [India](#).^[30]

The most notable country in the [Pacific Rim](#) not involved in the negotiations is [China](#). According to the Brookings Institute, the most fundamental challenge for the TPP project regarding China is that "it may not constitute a powerful enough enticement to propel China to sign on to these new standards on trade and investment. China so far has reacted by accelerating its own trade initiatives in Asia."^[31] However, China may still be interested in joining the TPP eventually.^[32]

History

Trans-Pacific Strategic Economic Partnership Agreement

During the 2002 [Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation](#) Leaders' Meeting in [Los Cabos](#), Mexico, Prime Ministers [Helen Clark](#) of New Zealand, [Goh Chok Tong](#) of Singapore and Chilean President [Ricardo Lagos](#) began negotiations on the *Pacific Three Closer Economic Partnership* (P3-CEP). Brunei first took part as a full negotiating party in April 2005 before the fifth, and final round of talks.[\[33\]](#) Subsequently, the agreement was renamed to TPSEP (Trans-Pacific Strategic Economic Partnership agreement or Pacific-4). Negotiations on the Trans-Pacific Strategic Economic Partnership Agreement (TPSEP or P4) were concluded by [Brunei](#), [Chile](#), [New Zealand](#) and [Singapore](#) on 3 June 2005,[\[2\]](#) and entered into force on 28 May 2006 for New Zealand and Singapore, 12 July 2006 for Brunei, and 8 November 2006 for Chile.[\[34\]](#)

The original TPSEP agreement contains an accession clause and affirms the members' "commitment to encourage the accession to this Agreement by other economies".[\[33\]\[35\]](#) It is a comprehensive agreement, affecting trade in goods, rules of origin, trade remedies, [sanitary and phytosanitary measures](#), technical barriers to trade, trade in services, intellectual property, government procurement and competition policy. Among other things, it called for reduction by 90 percent of all [tariffs](#) between member countries by 1 January 2006, and reduction of all trade tariffs to zero by the year 2015.[\[36\]](#)

Although original and negotiating parties are members of the [Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation](#) (APEC), the TPSEP (and the TPP it grew into) are not APEC initiatives. However, the TPP is considered to be a pathfinder for the proposed [Free Trade Area of the Asia Pacific](#) (FTAAP), an APEC initiative.

Trans-Pacific Partnership

In January 2008, the US agreed to enter into talks with the Pacific 4 (P4) members regarding [trade liberalisation](#) in financial services.[\[37\]](#) On 22 September 2008, under president [George W Bush](#), [US Trade Representative Susan C. Schwab](#) announced that the US would be the first country to begin negotiations with the P4 countries to join the TPP, with the first round of talks in early 2009.[\[38\]\[39\]](#)

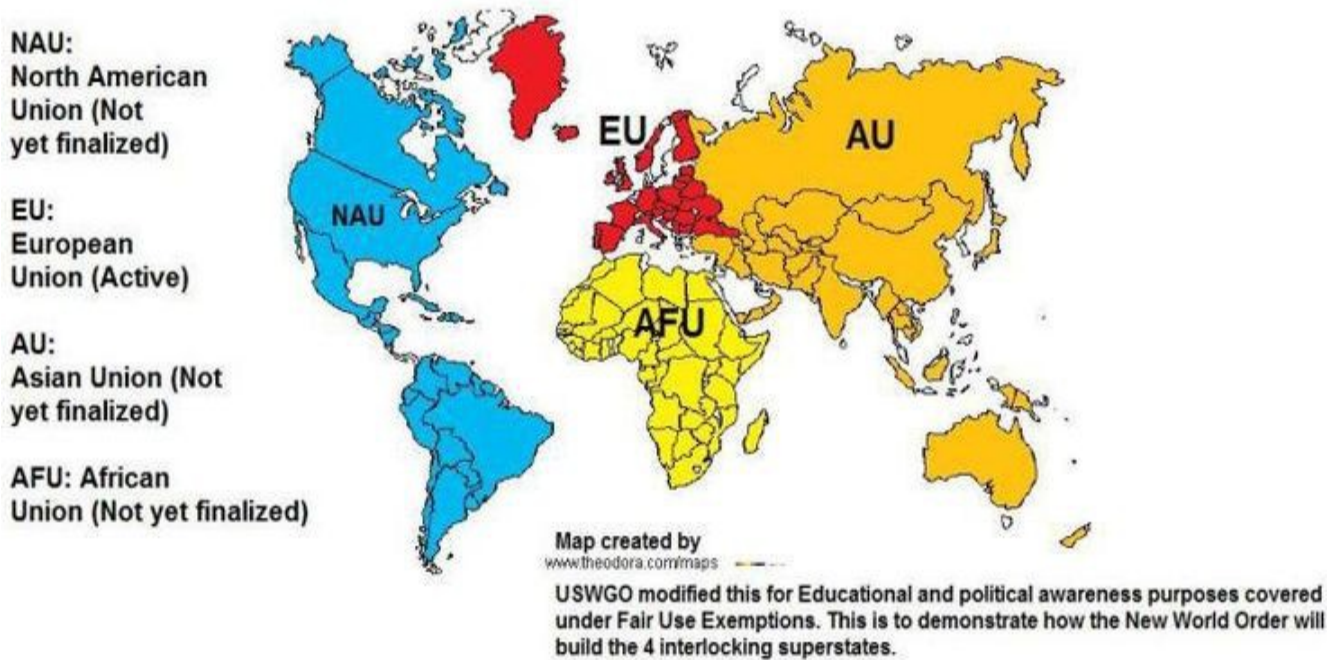
In November 2008, Australia, [Vietnam](#), and [Peru](#) announced that they would join the P4 trade bloc.[\[40\]\[41\]](#) In October 2010, [Malaysia](#) announced that it had also joined the TPP negotiations.[\[42\]\[43\]\[44\]](#)

After the inauguration of Barack Obama in January 2009, the anticipated March 2009 negotiations were postponed. However, in his first trip to Asia in November 2009, President Obama reaffirmed the United States' commitment to the TPP, and on December 14, 2009, new [US Trade Representative Ron Kirk](#) notified Congress that President Obama planned to enter TPP negotiations "with the objective of shaping a high-standard, broad-based regional pact".[\[45\]](#)

On the last day of the [2010 APEC summit](#), leaders of the nine negotiating countries endorsed the proposal advanced by US President [Barack Obama](#) that set a target for settlement of negotiations by the [next APEC summit in November 2011](#).[\[46\]](#) However, negotiations have continued through 2012, 2013 and 2014.

In 2010, Canada had become an observer in the TPP talks, and expressed interest in officially joining,[\[47\]](#) but was not committed to join, purportedly because the US and New Zealand blocked it due to concerns over Canadian agricultural policy (i.e. [supply management](#))—specifically dairy—and intellectual property-rights protection.[\[48\]\[49\]](#) Several pro-business and internationalist Canadian media outlets raised concerns about this as a missed opportunity. In a feature in the [Financial Post](#),

The New World Order Diagram



former Canadian trade-negotiator Peter Clark claimed that the US [Obama Administration](#) had strategically outmaneuvered the Canadian [Harper Government](#). Wendy Dobson and Diana Kuzmanovic for The School of Public Policy, [University of Calgary](#), argued for the economic necessity of the TPP to Canada.^[50] [Embassy](#) warned that Canada's position in APEC could be compromised by being excluded from both the US-oriented TPP and the proposed China-oriented [ASEAN +3](#) trade agreement (or the broader [Comprehensive Economic Partnership for East Asia](#)).^{[43][44][51]}

In June 2012, Canada and Mexico announced that they were joining the TPP negotiations.^{[52][53][54][55]} Mexico's interest in joining was initially met with concern among TPP negotiators about its customs policies.^[48]

Canada and Mexico formally became TPP negotiating participants in October 2012, following completion of the domestic consultation periods of the other nine members.^{[56][57][58]}

Japan officially joined the TPP negotiations on 23 July 2013. According to the Brookings Institution, Prime Minister Abe's decision to commit Japan to joining the TPP should be understood as a necessary complement to his efforts to stimulate the Japanese economy with monetary easing and the related depreciation of the Yen. These efforts alone, without the type of economic reform the TPP will lead to, are unlikely to produce long-term improvements in Japan's growth prospects.^[59]

In April 2013 APEC members proposed, along with setting a possible target for settlement of the TPP by the [2013 APEC summit](#), that [World Trade Organisation](#) (WTO) members set a target for settlement of the [Doha Round](#) mini-package by the ninth [WTO ministerial conference](#) (MC9), also to be held around the same time in [Bali](#).^[60]

This call for inclusion and co-operation between the WTO and [Economic Partnership Agreements](#) (also termed regional [trade agreements](#)) like the TPP comes after the statement by [Pierre Lellouche](#) who described the sentiment of the Doha round negotiations; "Although no one wants to say it, we must call a cat a cat...".^[61]

A leaked set of draft documents indicated that public concern had little impact on the negotiations.^[62] They also indicated there are strong disagreements between the US and negotiating parties regarding intellectual property, agricultural subsidies, and financial services.^[63]

Negotiation rounds

19 formal rounds of TPP negotiations have been held:[\[64\]](#)[\[65\]](#)

- 1st round: 15–19 March 2010, [Melbourne](#), Australia

The negotiating groups that met included industrial goods, agriculture, sanitary and phytosanitary standards, telecommunications, financial services, customs, rules of origin, government procurement, environment, and trade capacity building. Negotiators agreed to draft papers in preparation for the second round of negotiations.[\[66\]](#)

- 2nd round: 14–18 June 2010, [San Francisco](#), USA

This round included "determining the architecture for market access negotiations, deciding the relationship between the TPP and existing FTAs among the negotiating partners, addressing "horizontal" issues such as small business priorities, regulatory coherence, and other issues that reflect the way businesses operate and workers interact in the 21st century, and proceeding toward the tabling of text on all chapters of the agreement in the third negotiating round, scheduled for October in Brunei."[\[67\]](#)

- 3rd round: 5–8 October 2010, [Brunei](#)

This round included "meetings on agriculture, services, investment, government procurement, competition, environment, and labor. The groups focused on the objectives that they had set for this round: preparation of consolidated text and proposals for cooperation. Negotiations will continue through Saturday, with groups on telecommunications, e-commerce, textiles, customs, technical barriers to trade, and trade capacity building beginning Friday."[\[68\]](#)

- 4th round: 6–10 December 2010, [Auckland](#), New Zealand

In the 4th round talks, the negotiating countries "began work on trade in goods, financial services, customs, labor, and intellectual property. They also discussed cross-cutting issues, including how to ensure that small- and medium-sized enterprises can take advantage of the TPP, promoting greater connectivity and the participation of U.S. firms in Asia-Pacific supply chains and enhancing the coherence of the regulatory systems of the TPP countries to make trade across the region more seamless."[\[69\]](#)

- 5th round: 14–18 February 2011, [Santiago](#), Chile

The Santiago, the negotiating countries "made further progress in developing the agreement's legal texts, which will spell out the rights and obligations each country will take on and that will cover all aspects of trade and investment relationships. The teams carefully reviewed the text proposals made by each country, ensuring understanding of each other's proposals so negotiations could advance. With consolidated negotiating texts in most areas, partners began seeking to narrow differences and to consider the interests and concerns of each country."[\[70\]](#)

- 6th round: 24 March – 1 April 2011, [Singapore](#)

In Singapore, "the United States and TPP countries made substantial headway toward a key goal of developing the legal texts of the agreement, which include commitments covering all aspects of their trade and investment relationship. Recognizing the priority of this negotiation as well as the challenge of negotiating a regional agreement with nine countries, each country began showing the type of flexibility that will be needed to successfully conclude the negotiation. As a result, the teams were able to narrow the gaps in their positions on a wide range of issues across the more than 25 chapters of the agreement."[\[71\]](#)

- 7th round: 15–24 June 2011, [Ho Chi Minh City](#), Vietnam

In Vietnam, "among the issues on which the teams had particularly productive discussions were the new cross-cutting issues that will feature for the first time in the TPP. After consulting internally on the U.S. text tabled at the sixth round, they furthered their efforts to find common ground on the regulatory coherence text intended to make the regulatory systems of their countries operate in a more consistent and seamless manner and avoid the types of regulatory barriers that are increasingly among the key obstacles to trade. The teams also had constructive discussions on approaches to development in the TPP and the importance of ensuring that the agreement serves to close the development gap among TPP members."[\[72\]](#)

- 8th round: 6–15 September 2011, [Chicago](#), USA

"Negotiators from the nine TPP partner countries – Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Chile, Malaysia, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, Vietnam, and the United States – are reporting good progress early in the eighth round of talks, expected to last through September 15. Negotiating groups that have already begun meetings include services, financial services, investment, customs, telecommunications, intellectual property rights (IPR), government procurement, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, and environment. Numerous negotiating teams are also holding bilateral meetings."[\[73\]](#)

- 9th round: 22–29 October 2011, [Lima](#), Peru

"During this round, negotiators built upon progress made in previous rounds and pressed forward toward the goal of reaching the broad outlines of an ambitious, jobs-focused agreement by the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Leaders' meeting in Honolulu, HI next month. At APEC, President Obama and his counterparts from the other eight TPP countries will take stock of progress to date and discuss next steps."[\[74\]](#)

- 10th round: 5–9 December 2011, [Kuala Lumpur](#), Malaysia
- 11th round: 2–9 March 2012, [Melbourne](#), Australia
- 12th round: 8–18 May 2012, [Dallas](#), USA
- 13th round: 2–10 July 2012. [San Diego](#), USA
- 14th round: 6–15 September 2012, [Leesburg, Virginia](#), USA
- 15th round: 3–12 December 2012, [Auckland](#), New Zealand
- 16th round: 4–13 March 2013 [Singapore](#)
- 17th round: 15–24 May 2013, [Lima](#), Peru
- 18th round: 15–24 July 2013, [Kota Kinabalu](#), Malaysia
- 19th round: 23–30 August 2013, [Bandar Seri Begawan](#), Brunei
- 20th round: 3–13 July 2014 in [Ottawa](#), Canada

Causes of delays

Wikileaks' exposure of the Intellectual Property Rights and Environmental chapters of the TPP revealed "just how far apart the US is from the other nations involved in the treaty, with 19 points of disagreement in the area of intellectual property alone. One of the documents speaks of 'great pressure' being applied by the US." Australia in particular opposes the US's proposals for copyright protection and an element supported by all other nations involved to "limit the liability of [ISPs](#) for copyright infringement by their users." Another sticking point lies with Japan's reluctance to open up its agricultural markets.[\[75\]](#)

Political difficulties, particularly those related to the passage of a Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) by Congress, within the US present another cause of delay for the TPP negotiations. Receiving TPA from

Congress is looking especially difficult for Obama since members of his own Democratic Party are against them, while Republicans generally support the trade talks. "The TPP and TPA pose a chicken-and-egg situation for Washington. Congress needs to pass TPA to bring the TPP negotiations to fruition, but the Obama administration must win favorable terms in the TPP to pull TPA legislation through Congress. Simply put, the administration cannot make Congress happy, unless it can report on the excellent terms that it has coaxed out of Japan." [\[76\]](#)

Contents

General outlines and summaries of the agreement have been provided by those conducting negotiations, but the full text of the agreement has been kept classified. [\[77\]](#) However, some portions of the full agreement have been leaked to the public. Many of the provisions are modeled on previous trade and deregulation agreements. [\[citation needed\]](#)

US Trade Representative's summary

According to the website of the Office of the United States Trade Representative, TPP chapters include: competition, co-operation and capacity building, cross-border services, customs, e-commerce, environment, financial services, government procurement, intellectual property, investment, labour, legal issues, market access for goods, rules of origin, sanitary and phytosanitary standards, technical barriers to trade, telecommunications, temporary entry, textiles and apparel, trade remedies. [\[78\]](#)

Also according to the USTR, the contents of the TPP seek to address issues that promote:

- Comprehensive market access by eliminating tariffs and other barriers to goods and services trade and investment, so as to create new opportunities for our workers and businesses and immediate benefits for our consumers.
- A fully regional agreement by facilitating the development of production and supply chains among TPP members, which will support the goals of job creation, improving living standards and welfare, and promoting sustainable growth among member countries.
- Cross-cutting trade issues by building on work being done in APEC and other fora by incorporating four new cross-cutting issues in the TPP. These issues are:
 1. Regulatory coherence: Commitments will promote trade between the countries by making trade among them more seamless and efficient.
 2. Competitiveness and business facilitation: Commitments will enhance the domestic and regional competitiveness of each member country's economy and promote economic integration and jobs in the region, including through the development of regional production and supply chains.
 3. Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises: Commitments will address concerns small- and medium-sized businesses have raised about the difficulty in understanding and using trade agreements, encouraging these sized enterprises to trade internationally.
 4. Development: Comprehensive and robust market liberalisation, improvements in trade and investment enhancing disciplines, and other commitments will serve to strengthen institutions important for economic development and governance and thereby contribute significantly to advancing TPP countries' respective economic development priorities.
- New trade challenges by promoting trade and investment in innovative products and services, including the digital economy and green technologies, and to ensure a competitive business environment across the TPP region.
- Living agreement by enabling the updating of the agreement when needed to address trade

issues that materialise in the future as well as new issues that arise with the expansion of the agreement to include new countries.[79]

Intellectual property provisions

Main article: [Trans-Pacific Partnership Intellectual Property Provisions](#)

The intellectual property section of the TPP lays out a minimum level of protections signatories must enforce for [trademarks](#), [copyright](#), and [patents](#). Trademarks may be visual, auditory or scents, and are granted exclusive use for trade. Copyright is granted at a length of life of author plus 70 years, and makes willful circumvention of protections (such as [Digital Rights Management](#)) illegal. The TPP also establishes that "making available" is the exclusive right of the copyright owner.

Some of the provisions relating to the enforcement of patents and copyrights alleged to be present in the US proposal for the agreement have been criticised as being excessively restrictive, providing intellectual property restraints beyond those in the [Korea–US trade agreement](#) and [Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement](#) (ACTA).[80][81]

[WikiLeaks](#) has published draft documents on a regular basis since 2013: On 13 November 2013, it published a complete draft of the treaty's Intellectual Property Rights Chapter.[82][83] On 16 October 2014, it released a second updated version of the TPP Intellectual Property Rights Chapter.[84]

Investor–state arbitration (ISDS)


Commenting in the [New Republic](#), the director of Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch, [Lori Wallach](#), said

"We consider it inappropriate to elevate an individual investor or company to equal status with a nation state to privately enforce a public treaty between two sovereign countries", ... "[ISDS] gives extraordinary new privileges and powers and rights to just one interest. Foreign investors are privileged vis-a-vis domestic companies, vis-a-vis the government of a country, [and] vis-a-vis other private sector interests", "...the basic reality of ISDS: it provides foreign investors alone access to non-U.S. courts to pursue claims against the U.S. government on the basis of broader substantive rights than U.S. firms are afforded under U.S. law".[85]

According to [The Nation](#)'s interpretation of leaked documents in 2012, countries would be obliged to conform all their domestic laws and regulations to the TPP's rules, even limiting how governments could spend their tax dollars.[86] As of 2012, US negotiators were pursuing an investor-state dispute settlement mechanism, also known as corporate tribunals, which according to *The Nation* can be used to "attack domestic public interest laws".[86] This mechanism, a common provision in international trade and investment agreements, grants an investor the right to initiate dispute settlement proceedings against a foreign government in their own right under international law. For example, if an investor invests in country "A", a member of a trade treaty, and country A breaches that treaty, then the investor may sue country A's government for the breach.[87] The Australian government's position against investor state dispute settlement has been argued to support the rule of law and national energy security.[88]

On March 26, 2015 WikiLeaks released the TPP's Investment Chapter.[89] According to WikiLeaks, the accord would grant the power to global corporations to sue governments in tribunals organized by the World Bank or the United Nations to obtain taxpayer compensation for loss of expected future profits due to government actions.[90]

Ratification

 This section requires [expansion](#) with: ratification for countries other than US. (*April 2015*)


United States

The majority of [United States free trade agreements](#) are implemented as [congressional-executive agreements](#).^[91] Unlike treaties, such agreements require a majority of the House and Senate to pass.^[91] Under "Trade Promotion Authority" (TPA), established by the Trade Act of 1974, Congress authorises the President to negotiate "free trade agreements... if they are approved by both houses in a bill enacted into public law and other statutory conditions are met."^[91] In early 2012, the Obama administration indicated that a requirement for the conclusion of TPP negotiations is the renewal of ["fast track" Trade Promotion Authority](#).^[92] This would require the United States Congress to introduce and vote on an administration-authored bill for implementing the TPP with minimal debate and no amendments, with the entire process taking no more than 90 days.^[93] Fast-track legislation was introduced in Congress in mid-April 2015.^[94]

In December 2013, 151 House Democrats signed a letter written by [Rosa DeLauro](#) (D-CT) and [George Miller](#) (D-CA), which opposed the [fast track](#) trade promotion authority for the TPP. Several House Republicans opposed the measure on the grounds that it empowered the executive branch. In January 2014, House Democrats refused to put forward a co-sponsor for the legislation, hampering the bill's prospects for passage.^[95]

Controversy

Negotiation secrecy

 This section requires [expansion](#) with: reports of secrecy-related controversy prior to May 2012. (*May 2012*)

In 2012, critics such as Public Citizen's [Global Trade Watch](#), a consumer advocacy group, called for more open negotiations in regard to the agreement. US Trade Representative Ron Kirk responded that he believes the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) conducted "the most engaged and transparent process as we possibly could," but that "some measure of discretion and confidentiality" are needed "to preserve negotiating strength and to encourage our partners to be willing to put issues on the table they may not otherwise."^[48] He dismissed the "tension" as natural and noted that when the [Free Trade Area of the Americas](#) drafts were released, negotiators were subsequently unable to reach a final agreement.^[48]

On 23 May 2012, United States Senator [Ron Wyden](#) (D-OR) introduced [S. 3225](#), a document requiring the Office of the US Trade Representative to disclose its TPP documents to all members of Congress.^[96] Wyden said the bill clarifies the intent of 2002 legislation, which was supposed to increase Congressional access to information about USTR activity; however, according to Wyden, the bill is being incorrectly interpreted by the USTR as a justification to excessively limit such access.^[97] Wyden asserted:

The majority of Congress is being kept in the dark as to the substance of the TPP negotiations, while representatives of U.S. corporations—like [Halliburton](#), [Chevron](#), [PHRMA](#), [Comcast](#), and the [Motion Picture Association of America](#)—are being consulted and made privy to details of the agreement. [...]

More than two months after receiving the proper security credentials, my staff is still barred from viewing the details of the proposals that USTR is advancing. We hear that the process by which TPP is being negotiated has been a model of transparency. I disagree with that statement.[\[97\]](#)

In 2013, Senator [Elizabeth Warren](#) (D-Mass) and Rep. [Alan Grayson](#) (D-Fla.) were among a group of individuals[\[14\]](#) who criticised the Obama administration's secrecy policies on the Trans-Pacific Pact.[\[14\]](#)[\[98\]](#)[\[99\]](#)

The last round of negotiations was scheduled to occur in [Vancouver](#), Canada, but two weeks before the commencement date, Canada's capital, Ottawa, was selected as the new meeting venue.[\[9\]](#) Inquiries from public interest groups about attending this round were ignored.[\[9\]](#)

Tariffs

Before Japan entered TPP negotiations in July 2013, reports indicated that it would allow the US to continue imposing tariffs on Japanese vehicles, despite a "major premise of the TPP [being] to eliminate all tariffs in principle." According to the reports, Japan compromised on auto tariffs "because Tokyo wants to maintain tariffs on various agricultural products."[\[100\]](#)

Currency manipulation

Another contentious issue of the TPP negotiations has been currency manipulation, wherein a country devalues its currency to boost exports and gain a trade advantage. Politicians such as Senator Lindsey O. Graham and Representative Sander M. Levin "gathered a group of economists, manufacturing industry officials and labor leaders who agreed that the TPP should die unless it credibly prohibits countries from manipulating the value of their currency." Many economists claim that currency manipulation by Asian manufacturing countries has become pervasive, "allowing them to boost their exports at the expense of manufacturing companies in the United States and Europe." Furthermore, organisations such as the WTO or IMF cannot control such currency manipulation, so some are calling upon the US to "use the free-trade talks to force an end to such actions."[\[101\]](#)

Intellectual property

Further information: [Trans-Pacific Partnership intellectual property provisions](#)

[Electronic Frontier Foundation](#)[\[81\]](#) have been highly critical of the chapter on intellectual property covering copyright, trademarks, and patents. In the US, this is likely to further entrench controversial aspects of US copyright law (such as the Digital Millennium Copyright Act) and restrict the ability of Congress to engage in domestic law reform to meet the evolving IP needs of American citizens and the innovative technology sector. Standardization of copyright provisions by other signatories would also require significant changes to other countries' copyright laws. These, according to EFF, include obligations for countries to expand [copyright terms](#), restrict [fair use](#), adopt criminal sanctions for copyright infringement that is done without a commercial motivation (ex. [file sharing](#) of copyrighted digital media), place greater liability on [Internet intermediaries](#), escalate protections for [digital locks](#) and create new threats for journalists and whistleblowers (due to vague text on the misuse of [trade secrets](#)),[\[81\]](#)

Both the copyright term expansion and the non-complaint provision previously failed to pass in Japan because they were so controversial.[\[102\]](#) A group of artists, archivists, academics, and activists, have joined forces in Japan to call on their negotiators to oppose requirements in the TPP that would require their country to expand their copyright scope and length to match the United States' of copyright.[\[102\]](#)

[Ken Akamatsu](#), creator of Japanese manga series [Love Hina](#) and [Mahou Sensei Negima!](#), expressed concern the agreement could decimate the derivative [dōjinshi](#) (self-published) works prevalent in Japan. Akamatsu argues that the TPP "would destroy derivative dōjinshi. And as a result, the power of the entire [manga](#) industry would also diminish."[\[103\]](#)

Cost of medicine

A number of United States Congresspeople,[\[104\]](#) including Senator [Bernard Sanders](#)[\[105\]](#) and Representatives [Henry Waxman](#), [Sander M. Levin](#), [John Conyers](#), [Jim McDermott](#),[\[106\]](#) [John Lewis](#), [Pete Stark](#), [Charles B. Rangel](#), [Earl Blumenauer](#), and [Lloyd Doggett](#),[\[107\]](#) have expressed concerns about the effect the TPP requirements would have on access to medicine. In particular, they are concerned that the TPP focuses on protecting intellectual property to the detriment of efforts to provide access to affordable medicine in the developing world, particularly Vietnam, going against the foreign policy goals of the Obama administration and previous administrations.[\[104\]](#) Additionally, they worry that the TPP would not be flexible enough to accommodate existing non-discriminatory drug reimbursement programs and the diverse health systems of member countries.[\[107\]](#)

Opponents of the Trans-Pacific Partnership say US corporations are hoping to weaken [Pharmac](#)'s ability to get inexpensive, generic medicines by forcing New Zealand to pay for brand name drugs.[\[108\]](#) Doctors and organisations like [Medecins Sans Frontieres](#) have also expressed concern.[\[109\]](#) The [New Zealand Government](#) denies the claims, Trade Negotiations Minister [Tim Groser](#) saying opponents of the deal are "fools" who are "trying to wreck this agreement".[\[110\]](#)

In Australia, critics of the investment protection regime argue that [traditional investment treaty](#) standards are incompatible with some [public health](#) regulations, meaning that TPP will be used to force states to adopt lower standards, e.g., with respect to patented pharmaceuticals.[\[111\]](#) The Australian Public Health Association (PHAA) published a media release on 17 February 2014 that discussed the potential impact of the TPP on the health of Australia's population. A policy brief formulated through a collaboration between academics and non-government organisations (NGOs) was the basis of the media release, with the partnership continuing its Health Impact Assessment of the trade agreement at the time of the PHAA's statement. Michael Moore, the PHAA's CEO said, "The brief highlights the ways in which some of the expected economic gains from the TPPA may be undermined by poor health outcomes, and the economic costs associated with these poor health outcomes."[\[112\]](#)

On 29 January, former US Labor Secretary [Robert Reich](#) released an illustrating video explaining the TPP. He opposes it on grounds such as "delaying cheaper generic versions of drugs", and its provisions for international tribunals that can require corporations be paid "compensation for any lost profits found to result from a nation's regulations."[\[113\]](#)

Income inequality

In 2013, [Joseph Stiglitz](#), a [Keynesian economist](#), warned that based on leaked drafts of the TPP, it presented "grave risks" and "serves the interests of the wealthiest."[\[14\]](#)[\[114\]](#) Organized labour in the US argued that the trade deal would largely benefit corporations at the expense of workers in the manufacturing and service industries.[\[115\]](#) The [Economic Policy Institute](#) and the [Center for Economic and Policy Research](#) argued that the TPP could result in further job losses and declining wages.[\[116\]](#)[\[117\]](#)

In 2014, [Noam Chomsky](#) warned that the TPP is "designed to carry forward the [neoliberal](#) project to maximize profit and domination, and to set the working people in the world in competition with one another so as to lower wages to increase insecurity."[\[118\]](#) Senator [Bernie Sanders](#) (I-VT), who opposes

fast track, stated that trade agreements like the TPP "have ended up devastating working families and enriching large corporations." [119] Economist [Paul Krugman](#) reported, "... I'll be undismayed and even a bit relieved if the T.P.P. just fades away," and said that "... there isn't a compelling case for this deal, from either a global or a national point of view." Krugman also noted the absence of "anything like a political consensus in favor, abroad or at home." [120] Economist [Robert Reich](#) contends that the TPP is a "Trojan horse in a global [race to the bottom](#), giving big corporations and Wall Street banks a way to eliminate any and all laws and regulations that get in the way of their profits." [121][122]

In a letter to [Michael Froman](#), a [US Trade Representative](#), Senator [Bernie Sanders](#) wrote:

It is incomprehensible to me that the leaders of major corporate interests who stand to gain enormous financial benefits from this agreement are actively involved in the writing of the TPP while, at the same time, the elected officials of this country, representing the American people, have little or no knowledge as to what is in it. [123]

Environment

Ilana Solomon, [Sierra Club](#)'s director of responsible trade, argued that the TPP "could directly threaten our climate and our environment [including] new rights that would be given to corporations, and new constraints on the fossil fuel industry all have a huge impact on our climate, water, and land." [124] Upon the publication of a complete draft of the Environment Chapter and the corresponding Chairs' Report by Wikileaks in January 2014, the [Natural Resources Defense Council](#) and the [World Wide Fund for Nature](#) joined with the Sierra Club in criticising the TPP. [Julian Assange](#) described the Environment Chapter as "a toothless public relations exercise with no enforcement mechanism." [125] [126]

In January 2014, *The Washington Post*'s editorial board opined that congressional sponsors of legislation to expedite approval of the TPP in the US already included provisions to ensure that all TPP countries meet international labour and environmental standards, and that the US "has been made more productive by broader international competition and more secure by broader international prosperity". [127]

Protests

A protest in [Wellington, New Zealand](#) in November 2014
On 5 March 2012, a group of TPP protesters disrupted an outside broadcast of 7News Melbourne's 6pm bulletin at Melbourne, Australia's [Federation Square](#) venue. [128] In New Zealand, the "It's Our Future" protest group was formed [129] with the aim of raising public awareness prior to the Auckland round of negotiations, which was held from 3 to 12 December 2012. [130] During the Auckland negotiations, hundreds of protesters clashed with police outside the conference venue and lit a fire in the streets. [131]



A poll conducted in December 2012 showed 64 percent of New Zealanders thought trade agreements, such as the TPP, which allow corporations to sue governments, should be rejected. [132]

In March 2013, four thousand Japanese farmers held a protest in Tokyo over the potential for cheap imports to severely damage the local agricultural industry. [133]

Malaysian protesters dressed as [zombies](#) outside a shopping mall in Kuala Lumpur on 21 February 2014 to protest the impact of the TPP on the price of medicines, including treatment drugs for HIV. The

protest group consisted of students, members of the Malaysian AIDS Council and HIV-positive patients—one patient explained that, in [Malaysian ringgit](#), he spent between RM500 and RM600 each month on treatment drugs, but this cost would increase to around RM3,000.[\[134\]](#)

On 29 March 2014, 15 anti-TPP protests occurred across New Zealand, including a demonstration in Auckland attended by several thousand people.[\[135\]](#) In a press release announcing the New Zealand Nurses Association's decision to join the protests, the association's policy analyst stated that the TPP could prevent government decisions that would be beneficial to public health because "if private investors, such as tobacco companies, were affected they could sue the government."[\[136\]](#) On 8 November 2014, further protests occurred in 17 New Zealand cities, with turnouts in the thousands.[\[137\]\[138\]](#)

In January 2015, various petitions and public protests occurred in the US from progressives.[\[139\]](#) On 27 January 2015, protesters hijacked a [US Senate](#) hearing to speak out against the TPP and were promptly removed by capitol police officers.[\[140\]](#)

Relationship with other frameworks

See also: [Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership](#)

Along with the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP), the RCEP is a possible pathway to a free trade area of the Asia-Pacific, and a contribution to building momentum for global trade reform. Both the RCEP and TPP are ambitious FTAs and will involve complex negotiations as it involves multiple parties and sectors. The TPP and RCEP as mutually-reinforcing parallel tracks for regional integration.[\[141\]](#)

See also

- [Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement](#) (ACTA)
- [Combating Online Infringement and Counterfeits Act](#) (COICA)
- [Copyright](#)
- [Copyright infringement](#)
- [Counterfeit](#)
- [Digital rights](#)
- [Generic drugs](#)
- [Protect IP Act](#) (PIPA)
- [Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership](#) (RCEP)
- [Stop Online Piracy Act](#) (SOPA)
- [Trans-Pacific Partnership Intellectual Property Provisions](#)
- [Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership](#) (TTIP)
- [Free Trade Agreement](#) (FTA)

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